

*Extract of a Letter from the Rev. Dr. Percy, Bishop
of Dromore in Ireland, to the Rev. Dr. Lort, on
some large Fossil Horns.*

I HAVE lately purchased a pair of the largest fossil horns, I believe, ever found in Ireland, with some of the bones of that enormous race of deer which are dug up in the strata of marle that lye beneath our bogs. I do not find that they are discovered in the bogs themselves, but generally in the marle pits which are opened after the peat grafs is removed. One of these horns measures from the root at its insertion in the scull to the tip of its remotest branch seven feet and one inch; the other six feet and nine inches; to which add the interval of four inches in the scull between their roots, and the distance from the tip of one horn to the tip of the other is fourteen feet four inches. The scull which is intire measures from the end to the vertebræ of the neck to the tip of the nose twenty-three inches; the breadth of the forehead above the eyes is eleven inches and 1-fourth.

I HAVE the thigh bone, which is much larger than that of an ox, as is the bladebone of the shoulder.

I BELIEVE these horns differ not only in magnitude but in form from those of any species of deer now found in the world, certainly from the moose deer and elk. The bishop of Clonsfert,
Dr.

Dr. Law, tells me, he heard a gentleman from India speak of an enormous deer, still found in Tartary to the north and west of China, which have been thought to have been the same with ours. It is remarkable that no history, no tradition, no fable of the most antient Irish bards, ever contains the most distant allusion or slightest mention of these gigantic animals.

LORD Moira tells me, that he lately sent over some of the bones of this animal to be examined by some gentlemen of the Royal and Antiquarian Societies; and that the result of the enquiry was, that it was a non-existent animal. All here agree that those in my possession are the largest yet known, as few have ever been found that have extended beyond twelve feet. I lately got another large pair with the skull of the animal entire, which from its decayed teeth appeared to have died of old age, yet they measured with the skull but eleven feet and four inches.

One of these horns measures from the root at its insertion in the skull to the tip of its remotest branch seven feet and one inch; the other six feet and nine inches; to which add the interval of four inches in the skull between their roots, and the distance from the tip of one horn to the tip of the other is fourteen feet four inches. The skull which is entire measures from the end to the vertebrae of the neck to the tip of the nose twenty-three inches; the breadth of the forehead above the eyes is eleven inches and a fourth.

I have the thigh bone, which is much larger than that of an ox, as is the bladebone of the shoulder.

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